(d) Investment by the foreign entrepreneurs in a State depends on various factors such as degree of development of industry and financial infrastructure, the potential size of the market, skilled human and natural resources of the State and also the discal and other incentives provided by the State Government and above all the commercial judgement of the investor.

Upgradation of ITIs in Assam

1837. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes presently functioning in the State of Assam under the Ninth five-Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to upgrade the above Institutes in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) There is no proposal at present for upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes in the State of Assam. However, 28 States/Union Territories including Assam participated in a World Bank assisted Vocational Training Project which closed on 31.12.98. Under this project, 13 Government Industrial Training Institutes in Assam were upgraded.

Export of spices and eatables from Andhra Pradesh

1838. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of fruits, vegetables, spices and other food items exported from Andhra Pradesh during the last three years; item-wise and year-wise; and

(b) their effect on domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Details of the quantity of fruits, vegetables, spices and other food items exported from Andhra Pradesh is not available as State-wise data on exports is not maintained.

(b) The total quantity of fruits, vegetables and other food items exported is not significant compared to the total production of *thesi* items. Hence, it is generally unlikely to have any adverse impact on the domestic market. However, exports will help in maximising farm income and earn foreign exchange for the country.

Import of Recyclable Plastics

1839. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are importing recyclable plastic every month from Europe despite proposed ban on use of carry bags;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the progress on finding a biodegradable substitute for plastic carry bags?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The import of plastic waste and scrap is being regulated in accordance with the Public Notice No. 392-PN/92-97 dated 1st January, 1997, issued by Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, which lays down detailed safeguards and ensures that no toxic/hazardous material is imported. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has issued the Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999. These rules prohibit use of carry bags and containers made of recycled plastics for storing, carrying, dispensing or packaging of food stuffs and do not impose a blanket ban on the manufacture and use of plastic carry bags in the country. Environment friendly materials such as biodegradable plastics are at various states of research and development in the country. The technology for the manufacture of biodegradable plastics is not yet fully commercialised in the country.

Multinational and foreign companies operationg in India

1840. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of multinational and foreign companies operating in India; and

(b) how many of them are producing or manufacturing consumer goods?